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Arnold Schwarzenegger, Governor
Sunne Wright McPeak, Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Agency
Tony V. Harris, Acting Director

JUNE 2004

Caltrans Projects, Staff Win Prestigious Tranny Awards

The recently completed Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge led a parade of honors awarded to Caltrans at the California Transportation Foundation's 15th annual Tranny Award ceremony May 12 in Sacramento. The foundation named the bridge its Project of the Year.

Caltrans won a number of other Trannys including the Highway Freeway category for District 5's Route 101 Cuesta Grade project in San Luis Obispo County.

The Department also won in the Highway Operational category for District 7's soil stabilization project on Highway 1 at Topanga Canyon, and in the Highway Management category for District 4's Bay Area Incident Response System.

Caltrans also shared a prize with its contractor, Dokken Engineering, for the Highway 125/94 Interchange in San Diego, and was honored for the Lincoln Bypass Mitigation (restoration plan) at Aitken Ranch, and Modesto Signal Synchronization Project in Modesto.

Kathleen Sartorius, the Caltrans North Region Native American Liaison, was named Employee of the Year. Sartorius works to facilitate government-to-government consultation and team building with Native American tribal governments throughout Northern California.

The California Transportation Foundation makes grants available to public and private organizations and individuals in recognition of outstanding performance and professional development,



Fireworks exploded over the San Francisco Bay skyline during last year's opening of the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge. The unique span, which carries I-80 traffic over the Carquinez Strait, was named the Tranny Project of the Year.

Photo by Bill Hall, District 4 Photography

and co-sponsors transportation seminars and conferences. It also provides assistance to transportation employees and their family members who are subject to misfortune and hardship and memorials to honor deceased employees.

Anne E. Mayer, District 8 Director (San Bernardino), received the Charles H. Purcell Award, which recognizes contributions by Caltrans engineering managers to the field of transportation engineering and program management.

The prize reflects Mayer's work with the Department's regional partners, and the District's response to the Grand Prix and Old Fire blazes in Southern California.

The James E. Roberts award, recognizing outstanding contributions by a Caltrans engineer to the field of transportation structures, went to Thomas Harrington, Chief of the Office of

Structure Maintenance and Investigations North.

Harrington, a 32-year veteran of Caltrans is recognized as an expert in bridge repair and emergency response, and has visited South Korea, Saudi Arabia and Turkey to share his expertise.

The Karl Moskowitz Award, which recognizes contributions by Caltrans engineers to the field of transportation engineering, went to Stephen K. Leung, Chief of the Office of Traffic Investigations in District 7.

Two Caltrans employees shared the new Emerson Rhyner Award: James Appleton, Chief of the Office of

Photogrammetry, and Tony Anziano, Assistant Chief Counsel. The Rhyner Award recognizes accomplishments by non-engineering managers.

The graceful Zampa Memorial Bridge on Interstate 80 at the Carquinez Strait features the first use in North America of an orthotropic box girder in lieu of the conventional stiffening truss on a suspension bridge. The box girder allows for a light superstructure with a low profile while providing enhanced stability.

The efficiency and safety of bridge maintenance is enhanced by the box girder design, which allows examination of virtually all welded and bolted connections and fatigue-sensitive details from within the box. Maintenance crews can walk the entire length of the bridge inside

Tranny Awards

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May Brings a Revision of Budget Numbers, and Good News for Caltrans

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Acting Director Tony V. Harris

Last month Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger released new figures for his proposed budget -- the May Revision -- and it contained good news for transportation.

The revision proposes to restore \$1.9 billion and 462 positions to the Fiscal Year 2004-05 Budget -- as compared to the Governor's proposed budget that was released in January -- or a 25 percent increase.

The revision, which is released every year at this time, takes into account the latest estimates about the amount of money available to the state. It is submitted to the Legislature, which will use the figures as a basis for the Fiscal Year 2004-05 Budget.

This year, the revision suspends transfers and loans that would have been required to be made to the General Fund. It accelerates loan payments from the General Fund to various transportation

accounts. And it escalates spending on Capital Outlay Support (COS).

If the Legislature accepts the revision, the Department will benefit from additional staffing and resources.

Specifically, here is a list of some of the key improvements we can expect.

The Proposition 42 suspension will become a loan rather than a transfer. These repayments will allow road construction projects to serve as a stimulus to the economy, and they reflect the Governor's commitment to transportation as a high priority for new funding in the future.

The Governor now proposes not to transfer \$189 million from the Transportation Congestion Relief Fund to the state's General Fund.

Nearly \$1.4 billion in loans were to be paid in FY 2005-06, but now will

lion remains in the TCRF to pay for projects with existing allocations. A review of the projects in the Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) will be conducted before the money is released.

A Finance Letter allows the Department to add staff and resources for COS projects.

And, if our congressional delegation can resolve the issue of tax revenues that California would lose to ethanol-gasoline mixes sold in the state, then we can anticipate more resources.

The Legislature is required by law to pass a budget by June 15, and until then we can expect debate about the specifics of that budget. However, the May Revision is very good news for the Department and transportation.

If its basic points are passed into law, then the Department will have the opportunity to move ahead in providing our quickly growing state with the transportation infrastructure it needs to compete and prosper in the global economy of the 21st century.

*... Governor's
commitment to
transportation
a high priority*

be accelerated in the coming fiscal year. For example, \$383 million will be repaid immediately, and the balances would be paid, to the extent possible, from tribal gaming contracts.

The State Highway Account (SHA) would be reimbursed \$184 million, while \$36 million would go to the Public Transportation Account. And \$163 mil-



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D-11 Breaks Ground for District's New Office Building

By Hayden Manning
D-11 Public Affairs

It could arguably be the most highly anticipated day in recent District 11 history. While the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new district office complex will likely have more pomp and circumstance, the groundbreaking celebration earlier this month was an event that many thought might never happen.

After years of planning, District employees, Headquarters personnel, the Old Town Planning Commission, state and city representatives celebrated the groundbreaking of the new District Office Complex on May 6.

"Like most of you, I am finding it hard to believe that this is finally happening," said District Director Pedro Orso-Delgado, as he kicked off the event. "This celebration is for the employees because of the hardships you've had to endure over the past several years with working in an outdated facility."

The outdated District office has long served its purpose. Built in 1953, the building housed about 70 employees.

Over the years, it was expanded north of Taylor Street and the number of people employed jumped into the hundreds. Currently, District employees are scattered in leased office space throughout San Diego County. There are complaints about the time lost traveling from location to location for meetings and other events just to get the job done.

The groundbreaking was a true celebration for all employees who thought this day would never come. It was a glimpse back in time when almost everyone was at one location making it much easier to get things done -- a time when a co-worker was just down the hall instead of 20 minutes away down the interstate. The event featured a Polynesian-style barbecue, along with iced tea, fruit punch and cake. There were also official "District 11 Office Complex" t-shirts for sale and polo shirts available to order.

"Thanks so much for the lovely ground breaking ceremony," said Environmental Resource Analyst Peggy Tincup.

While the events of the day had food and fun for all, the project represented a lot of work for a lot of people over several years.

"A lot of hard work goes into a project like this," said Deputy Director of Administration Marisela Montes, who was representing Acting Director Tony V. Harris. "It's like putting together a puzzle with the planning, coordinating, and reaching out to the public. But, we are almost there."

Dozens of local and statewide employees from the Department and other agencies helped put the puzzle pieces together. The 10-acre office complex will feature three separate buildings with a cafeteria adjoining an outside dining area. It

will also have a modern childcare center with three separate rooms for kids.

The building will feature men's and women's showers with lockers on the first floor of Building Two. There will be a coffee galley on nearly every floor. When complete, the new office complex will house 950 employees, have 835 parking spaces, landscaping with 31 varieties of trees and 59 varieties of shrubs all at a cost of about \$72 million.

The project is a working relationship between the Department of General



Caltrans broke ground in May on the new \$72 million D-11 Office Building, which will house 950 employees. Until now, workers have been scattered throughout San Diego and in an obsolete building near Old Town, which dates back to 1953.

Services (DGS), which is the actual customer, and Caltrans. DGS's Acting Chief of Project Management Rick Rusk talked about the working relationship with Caltrans and current building Project Manager John Rieger and how the building got to this point.

The current and future office buildings are unique because they share space with the Old Town San Diego State Historic Park. The park, popular with visitors and locals, recreates life in the Mexican and early American periods of 1821 to 1872. The new building design had to include characteristics of this landscape and be approved by the Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce.

Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce President Fred Grand spoke about how the new building will be a benefit for Caltrans and for the park and its visitors.

The official groundbreaking activities concluded with the demolition of the old maintenance garage and the symbolic turning of dirt by Caltrans, DGS, and Old Town San Diego Chamber of Commerce representatives.

New Carquinez Bridge Pedestrian/Bicycle Lane Opens with a Flourish

Walking and peddling enthusiasts poured across the newly completed pedestrian/bicycle lane on the Alfred Zampa Memorial (Carquinez) Bridge as part of a mid-May ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate the new facility.

The 12-foot-wide path hugs the western side of the suspension bridge connecting Solano and Contra Costa counties along Interstate 80. The 1.6-mile-long path is the finishing touch to the new bridge, which opened to car and truck traffic in November 2003.

"Caltrans is pleased to provide a safe, new transportation option for residents of the region," said Caltrans Acting Director Tony V. Harris. "This bridge is another example of the Bay Area's dedication to improving multimodal mobility."

Caltrans is responsible for the design, construction and management of the bridge project, while funding and oversight lay in the hands of the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA).

Stretching from a vista point on the Vallejo side on the north to a planned landscaped trailhead on the Crockett side at the southern end, the new path closes a major gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail that rings San Francisco and San Pablo bays.

It links existing trails along the Carquinez Strait and Bay shoreline and through Vallejo, and serves as a vital segment of the Bay



Bicyclists, above, are among the first official users of the newly completed pedestrian/bicycle lane on the Alfred Zampa Memorial Bridge, which carries I-80 over the Carquinez Strait. The bridge opened to cars and trucks in November.

Area Ridge Trail, which ultimately will encircle the region along an inland route. The path can be accessed from San Pablo Avenue near Merchant Street in Crockett or Maritime Academy Drive in Vallejo.

Joining in the ceremony were Congressman George Miller, Assembly members Joe Canciamilla and Lois Wolk and District 4 Director Bijan Sartipi, along with speakers from BATA, the Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors and Suisun City.

Four Bay Area toll bridges now have bicycle and/or pedestrian paths, including the Golden Gate, Dumbarton and Antioch

spans. The new path is open to wheelchairs, bicyclists and pedestrians daily from sunrise to sunset. No roller blades, skateboards or dogs are allowed.

The \$500 million price tag includes the bridge (including the bike/pedestrian path), rebuilding the I-80/Crockett interchange, construction of a maintenance facility and new north and south approaches to the bridge, and the demolition of the old westbound span, which is scheduled to be completed in 2006.

The new westbound span of the Carquinez Bridge is named for the late Alfred Zampa, a local ironworker who helped build many of the Bay Area toll bridges. It carries four lanes of traffic, including a carpool lane, and features two 10-foot-wide shoulders to ease the clearing of stalled vehicles and accidents.

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the box, as this is the first suspension bridge girder in the country to be continuous for the full length of the bridge without expansion joints at the towers.

The bridge also features the first use of concrete towers on a major suspension bridge in North America. The towers are designed to withstand a 300-year seismic event from any of the nearby faults without damage, and a 1000-year event with minor damage that can be repaired without impact to bridge traffic.

The main cable was placed by the innovative method of aerial spinning. The method is safer and more orderly than the old standard method and cuts manpower needs in half. Only eight weeks were required to erect the main cables.

Other honors went to Michael Evanhoe, recently retired as Chief Development Officer of the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Agency as Person of the Year; Sarah Johnson, a Sacramento Area community advocate as Citizen of the Year; Senator Tom Torlakson, Elected Official of the Year; and Pam Couch, Executive Director, Modoc Transportation Agency, Manager of the Year.

Over the years, the foundation has provided in excess of \$130,000 to assist more than 100 employees. It supports its activities through donations, special fund contributions. To find out how to contribute, visit the foundation's website at www.transportationfoundation.org

Other Transportation foundation-sponsored events include the Transportation Forum in February, Charity Golf Tournament in August, and an Education Symposium in November.

Lecture Series Highlights Caltrans Seismic Research Effort

Dr. Frieder Seible, Chair of the Caltrans Seismic Advisory Board and one of the world's foremost seismic structural engineers, will be the featured speaker at the Department's June Research Connection videoconference.

Seible, who is Dean of the Jacobs School of Engineering at the University of California, San Diego, has worked closely with the Department on bridge seismic engineering research projects for nearly 20 years.

The brown bag lunch videoconference will be June 17 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. and is open to all Department employees. Seible is the third speaker in a series of monthly Research Connection videoconferences sponsored by the Caltrans Division of Research and Innovation designed to share information about department funded research efforts.

Earlier videoconferences featured Dr. Martin Wachs, Director of the University of California's Institute of Transportation Studies, who discussed transportation financing, and Dr. Patricia Mokhtarian, Professor of Civil and Environmental Engineering at the University of California, Davis, who spoke on the concept of latent traffic demand.



Dr. Frieder Seible, who helped Caltrans over the years to establish new seismic safety guidelines, will be the featured speaker June 17, as part of a Caltrans-sponsored videoconference lecture series.

"Caltrans' well earned reputation as the world's finest transportation agency is based in large part on its long history of pioneering new engineering ideas and applying them to improve safety and mobility at the best cost for the taxpayers," said Randy Iwasaki, Deputy Director of Maintenance and Operations.

"Through this lecture series, we hope not only to share information about ongoing research but to foster the collective creative knowledge of our employees to continue pushing the envelope to develop better and more cost effective ways to meet California's future transportation needs," Iwasaki said.

Seible has been a member of the USCD faculty since 1983. He served as the Founding Chair of the university's Department of Structural Engineering from 1995 until 2001. He has been Dean of the Jacobs School of Engineering since 2002. He holds the Eric and Johanna Reissner Chair in Applied Mechanics and Structural Engineering and the Walter J. Zable Chair in the Jacobs School of Engineering.

"Frieder Seible is one of the top seismic structural engineers

Seible

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Governor Taps State Employees to Make Government Work Better

*By Chon Gutierrez
Executive Director, CPR*

In times of crisis, whether it's neighbors helping neighbors following last year's devastating firestorms in Southern California, or fixing our state's budget crisis, Californians have shown time and again that they can turn adversity into opportunity and innovation.

That's just exactly what a dedicated team of some of the best and brightest people in state service have been doing since late February. About 250 people are working together in downtown Sacramento on the simple, yet enormous task of finding ways to make state government work better and cost less in this time of unprecedented fiscal crisis.

They are members of the California



Chon Gutierrez, a veteran state administrator, is Executive Director of the ongoing California Performance Review (CPR).

Performance Review, a team of state employees created by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger to restructure, reorganize and reform state government so that it better serves the people of this great state.

As Governor Schwarzenegger stated in announcing Executive Order S-5-04, "This unprecedented action will mean a total review of government; its performance, its practices, and its costs. Together with my dedicated team of experts, we will make California the first true 21st century government in America, a government that is as innovative and dynamic as the state itself."

CPR received more than 2,500 applications from state employees, and over

CPR

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'Hats Off' to Caltrans Employees

On a regular basis, Caltrans employees receive appreciation letters by external customers for outstanding performance. "Hats Off" features some of these well-deserved accolades earned by employees throughout the Department. Keep up the good work! (Editor's note: Letters can be submitted to Robin Witt for possible publishing. Letters may be edited for length and continuity.)

One never knows when you'll be called upon in an instant to react positively, effectively, and promptly. Such was the case earlier this year when veteran SFOBB Toll Collector Guillermo "Willie" Gutierrez did just that.

It was a typical weekday in the toll lanes. Traffic was backed up. The toll lane next to Willie was temporarily closed. A citizen, Ms. Tina Gregory, stopped her vehicle in that lane and tried to call 911 on her cell phone. It was busy! She looked terrified.

That's when Willie recognized the situation and sprang into action. He closed his toll lane and went over to assist. Ms. Gregory's 911 calls were still greeted with busy signals. Willie looked into the vehicle. One of the occupants, a young boy, was screaming. His face was flushed and swelling rapidly.

Willie said, "It (the incident) was pretty scary to see a little boy like that. I just reacted. I didn't have time to think. It shook me up when 911 was busy. I just reacted."

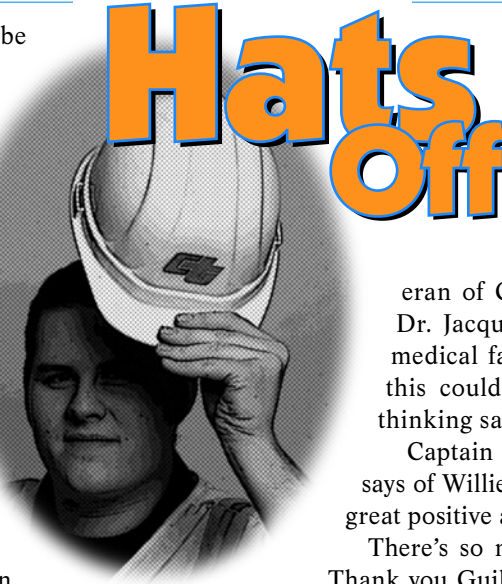
He certainly did!

He called the Toll Sergeant from his booth and requested that he call 911. Thanks to Sergeant Edward Henderson for his assistance. Unbeknownst to Willie and Ms. Gregory, the boy -- Jacob -- was having an allergic reaction to some candied peanuts he had eaten.

Willie got back to the vehicle. Because he had a four-year-old son, he knew instinctively what to do. He lightened the mood of Jacob, Ms. Gregory, and the other children (there were three others) in the car.

He smiled, reassured, and stated that a big red fire truck was on its way. "Just hang in there. We'll be all 'OK'." His actions relieved the pressure and in a situation like that, that's exactly what you should do. You try to keep the person's thoughts occupied about something else. According to Willie, it seemed like a long time before medical help arrived. Minutes in tense situations can seem like that. Paramedics administered aid to Jacob and then took him to a nearby hospital by ambulance.

Ms. Gregory called the Sergeant's Desk the next day. She was happy to report that Jacob was "OK." She wanted the name of the person who was her hero. She only knew his badge number, "64." A few days later Willie



received a letter of appreciation from Ms. Gregory. Jacob, his brother Luke, and the other children in the vehicle painted pictures of their hero, Guillermo "Willie" Gutierrez.

Willie, a native San Franciscan from the Excelsior District, the youngest of seven children, and a 21-year veteran of Caltrans, downplayed his role. However Dr. Jacqueline Nguyen from one of our approved medical facilities said, "The allergic reaction from this could have very well been deadly. His quick thinking saved the child."

Captain Jacqueline Ellis-Hebert from the SFOBB says of Willie, "He is always happy to please. He has a great positive attitude. A great family man."

There's so much more to the man behind badge 64. Thank you Guillermo "Willie" Gutierrez for being at the right place at the right time.

You are truly a hero!

Gordon Analla,

District 4 Safety Specialist

On April 2, the tow service learned that a person might be trying to jump from the Bay Bridge west of Treasure Island. Supervisor Al Curtaz responded along with tow operators Judy Brumbaugh, Tony Bass and Ernest Sullivan. The California Highway Patrol, San Francisco Fire Department and Caltrans personnel began traffic control.

Over the next 13 hours, many things occurred. As traffic backed up, our tow operators responded with courtesy and professionalism to more than 180 calls for assistance from the motoring public. They dispensed 35 gallons of gasoline, and provided water for over-heated cars and people trapped in them.

Despite shift changes, the operation continued smoothly. Many operators volunteered to stay late to help the public.

I am proud of the response from the tow service, and proud to be a part of the team (the CHP and the Oakland and San Francisco fire departments) that made human life a priority. The team took every opportunity to serve the public's needs.

The primary result of this combined effort was a human life saved. I would like to thank all SFOBB personnel that participated in this event.

Mel Farrell

Tow Superintendent

District 4

Marilyn Jorgenson Reece Dies at 77: State's First Female CE

Marilyn Jorgenson Reece, California's first female registered civil engineer and designer of Los Angeles' San Diego/Santa Monica freeway interchange, has died. She was 77. Reece died May 15 at her home in Hacienda Heights after a long illness, according to her daughter. A native of North Dakota, Reece studied civil engineering at the University of Minnesota. Upon her graduation in 1948, Reece moved to California to work for the State Division of Highways, which later became Caltrans. After six years of required experience to sit for the Professional Engineer's Exam, Reece became the state's first fully licensed

female civil engineer in 1954. In 1962, Edmond G. Brown, Sr., granted her the Governor's Design Excellence Award for the San Diego/Santa Monica freeway interchange. Shortly thereafter, she became the Division of Highway's first female resident engineer for construction projects.

Reece's career spanned 35 years and also included acting as Senior Engineer for the 210 Freeway through Sunland in 1975. At the time, it was the largest construction project Caltrans had ever awarded, at \$40 million. After her retirement in 1983, Ms. Reece taught engineering classes at the California State University at Long Beach.

But she is perhaps best known for the Santa Monica-to-San



Marilyn Jorgenson Reece, a Caltrans pioneer, was the state's first female registered civil engineer and designed the world-famous San Diego/Santa Monica Freeway Interchange in Los Angeles. She was with Caltrans for 35 years.

Photo courtesy of Anne Bartolotti

Diego freeway interchange. With its graceful loops and gentle curves, it became one of the most photographed – and busiest – freeway interchanges in the world.

It developed into a Southern California icon and in recent years was the subject of a sculpture by artist Yutaka Sone at the Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art's "Jungle Island" exhibition.

During Women's History Month of 1983, the Los Angeles City Council honored Reece for making significant contributions to the city. In 1991, she achieved Life Membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Reece once commented that the shortage of men in the workforce during World War II allowed her to succeed in a field once dominated by men. Asked why she studied Civil Engineering, she explained, "Well, I like mathematics and I didn't want to be a teacher."

Reece is survived by her husband of 47 years, Alvin; two daughters, Kirsten Stahl of Hacienda Heights, and Anne Bartolotti of Covina; a sister, Shirley Peterson of Victorville; and two grandsons, Christopher and Patrick Bartolotti. Funeral services will be private for immediate family members only. A public memorial service is being planned. The family has asked that, instead of flowers, donations be sent to a favorite charity.

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5,000 calls, e-mails and word-of-mouth requests -- all in the first week. This incredible response from the state workforce made our team member selection process terribly difficult.

The California Performance Review, or CPR, is made up of employees on loan from about 30 different California departments, agencies, boards and commissions. They are experts in a broad spectrum of governmental programs including education, health and human services, and transportation, resource conservation and environmental

protection, public safety and corrections.

Between them, they have literally thousands of years of experience in both the public and private sectors, and they know first hand what is working, and what needs to be tossed out, and what needs to be added.

With all this experience, there is no place for a bad program to hide, or a good idea to be ignored.

Even though the employees who have volunteered for the CPR team come from diverse backgrounds and fields of expertise, all seem to have one thing in

common: a strong desire to see California government better serve its citizens.

As one long-time government employee said after joining the CPR team, "I have been a cog in this broken machine for years now, and this is the first time anyone has ever asked me how I could do my job better. I can't tell you how eager I am to contribute." The enthusiasm is high as these team members are performing Governor Schwarzenegger's top-to-bottom review of state government.

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in the world. He has worked on numerous research projects for Caltrans including pioneering the design and successfully testing various seismic strengthening techniques that have been widely applied to bridges in California and around the world," said Iwasaki.

A member of the National Academy of Engineering, Seible earned his civil engineering degree from the University of Stuttgart in Germany and his Master's from the University of Alberta, Canada. He earned his doctorate in Civil Engineering from the University of California, Berkeley. Seible also is a Professional Engineer in California.

All videoconference rooms have been reserved in advance. Check the Lotus Notes VTC calendar to find out about locations. Seible will be live in the Division of Research and Innovation conference room at 1227 O Street, Sacramento. For more information check the Division of Research and Innovation web site at <http://onramp.dot.ca.gov/newtech/> or contact Christine Azevedo at 8-464-9878 or christine.azevedo@dot.ca.gov.

Exams Schedule

The Caltrans Examination Office anticipates that the following examination bulletins will have a Final Filing date in June:

Personnel Technician I (Promo)
Senior Legal Analyst (Promo)
Supervisor of Drafting Services (Promo)

The following examinations allow for continuous filing:

Caltrans Heavy Equipment Mechanic (Promo)
Deputy Attorney, Caltrans (Open)
Deputy Attorney III (Promo)
Deputy Attorney IV (Promo)

The following examinations allow for continuous filing on the Internet:

Senior Environmental Planner (Promo)
Senior Right of Way Agent (Promo)
Senior Transportation Engineer, Caltrans (Promo)

Visit our Web site at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/jobs for open, promotional, CEA and MSDP examinations.

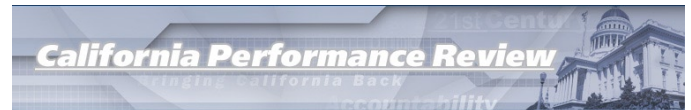
DO YOU HAVE A SUGGESTION ON HOW TO IMPROVE STATE OPERATIONS? IF SO, YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR AN AWARD! CONTACT THE EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION PROGRAM AT (916) 227-9803 OR VISIT THE WEB SITE AT:

<http://admin.dot.ca.gov/hr/recognition/index.shtml>

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Members of CPR come from all levels of state (government: analysts), CEA's, office chiefs, supervisors and department directors. Some have held under secretary positions, testified before the Legislature, and participated in budget negotiations. All are focused on customer service. And CPR can count among its ranks one former governor, George Deukmejian, who is co-leader of a team that is reviewing the state's prison operations.

Team members are working feverishly to meet the June 30th deadline. They have identified stakeholders in the reform, defined issues, and researched how other states, like



Florida and Texas, have improved their own governments. They are divided into 14 teams examining the thousands of innovative suggestions that have come from state workers and the public and private sectors in terms of reorganization, performance assessment, budgeting, improved services, productivity and procurement reform.

Since CPR has been up and running, there have been thousands of suggestions pouring in via the Web site (www.cpr.ca.gov) and through phone calls and letters from concerned Californians. Many more ideas are expected to be presented at a series of state-wide public hearings being held by the California Performance Review Commission. The commission will receive testimony from the general public and from leaders in business, education, community service, and the public sector.

It's too early to identify the specific recommendations that will be in CPR's final report to Governor Schwarzenegger June 30th. But it's safe to say there will be tremendous energy and governmental will behind these ideas. After all, the Governor was elected on a platform of change. He created CPR to help craft the vision of change. And left to their own devices, the CPR teams are sure to find ways to make government work better and cost less.

More information on CPR can be found at www.cpr.ca.gov.
Editor's note: Chon Gutierrez is a 32-year veteran of state service and has most recently served as Interim Director of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

CT News is a Production of the Caltrans External Affairs Division

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